

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 09411 01 OF 02 021652Z

46

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 CU-05 COME-00 EB-24 LAB-06

SIL-01 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 /156 W

----- 102442

R 021005Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6982

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 9411

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJ: RULING PARTY EMBARKS ON REORGANIZATION

SUMMARY: LEADERSHIP OF RULING PAKISTAN PEOPLES' PARTY (PPP) MET SEPTEMBER 19-21 IN ISLAMABAD TO DISCUSS PARTY'S POLICY ON CURRENT POLITICAL CONCERNS AND PROBLEMS OF REORGANIZATION. IN SESSION, BHUTTO EXPRESSED DETERMINATION TO ELIMINATE CORRUPT ELEMENTS IN HIS PARTY, ENLARGE MEMBERSHIP WITH NEW ENROLLMENTS AND ESTABLISH ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE ON REPRESENTATIVE LINES DOWN TO LOCAL LEVEL. THIS ENDEAVOR, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS, IS BEING RESISTED BY SOME POWERHOLDERS WHO ARE FEARFUL OF COMPETITION FROM NEWCOMERS UNDER MORE DEMOCRATIC RULES. FOR PRIME MINISTER WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF PARTY, HOWEVER, IT IMPORTANT THAT PPP BE DEVELOPED INTO MORE REPRESENTATIVE ORGANIZATION WHICH HE CAN COUNT ON TO ASSIST IN IMPLEMENTING PARTY DECISIONS; TO AVOID BECOMING ISOLATED FROM THE PEOPLE; TO PERMIT HIM TO TURN OVER SUBSTANTIAL BURDENS TO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 09411 01 OF 02 021652Z

ORGANIZATION WITHOUT LOSING CONTROL; AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY,

TO USE AS AN INSTRUMENT TO RETAIN POWER.
END SUMMARY.

1. INFORMATION IS SLOWLY LEAKING OUT ABOUT SEPTEMBER 19-21 MEETING AT ISLAMABAD OF PAKISTAN PEOPLES' PARTY (PPP) CALLED TO DISCUSS PARTY POLICY AND REORGANIZATION. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES, PM BHUTTO, WHO ALSO PARTY CHAIRMAN, SPOKE OF PPP POLICY CONCERNING CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL ISSUES AND INITIATED DISCUSSION OF PROVINCIAL PARTIES' PERFORMANCE. FOR TWO DAYS, PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSED PLANS FOR REORGANIZATION PROPOSED BY SUBCOMMITTEE SET UP AT LAST HIGH COMMAND MEETING IN FEBRUARY. THE PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED GOP MINISTERS, GOVERNORS AND CHIEF MINISTERS BELONGING TO THE PARTY; PROVINCIAL PPP OFFICE-HOLDERS; AND, FROM NWFP AND BALUCHISTAN WHERE PARTY IS WEAK, SOME PPP LEGISLATORS WHO DO NOT HAVE POSITIONS IN PARTY ORGANIZATION. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING PRESS RELEASES ANNOUNCED THAT COMMITTEES HAD BEEN SET UP TO OVERSEE ENROLLMENT OF NEW MEMBERS AND REORGANIZATION OF PPP IN PROVINCES.

2. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY AND CONGEN SOURCES, ALMOST HALF OF MEETING WAS TAKEN UP WITH PROBLEM OF WEEDING OUT MEMBERS GUILTY OF INDISCIPLINE AND CORRUPTION AND METHOD OF ENLARGING MEMBERSHIP BASE WITHOUT ATTRACTING OPPORTUNISTS, UNDESIRABLES AND "INFILTRATORS" FROM OTHER PARTIES. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THERE WAS MUCH ACRIMONIOUS DISCUSSION AMONG PARTICIPANTS, REPRESENTING VARIOUS PERSONAL GROUPINGS AND FACTIONS; E.G., NON-OFFICE HOLDING PARTY LEADERS, WHO HAVE FELT IGNORED AND POWERLESS, ACCUSED PPP LEGISLATORS OF HAVING ABUSED THEIR POSITIONS OF POWER. IN CONFIDENTIAL REPORT ON PUNJAB PARTY BRANCH, PROVINCIAL VICE CHAIRMAN LANGAH ALLEGED THAT INFIGHTING, CORRUPTION AND FAVORITISM HAD RENDERED PPP THERE INEFFECTUAL AND UNPOPULAR WITH PEASANTS, LABOR, STUDENTS AND WOMEN.

3. ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSES OF THE PROPOSAL FOR REORGANIZATION SUBMITTED TO MEETING IS TO STIMULATE RECRUITMENT OF LOCAL LEVEL MEMBERSHIP, WHERE VACUUM EXISTS IN MANY AREAS. IT PROVIDES THAT MEMBERSHIP

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 09411 01 OF 02 021652Z

IN HIGHER ECHELONS, PARALLELING STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION, WOULD BE CHOSEN THROUGH ELECTION FROM LOWER BODIES. NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL PARTY LEADERS WOULD THUS BE OBLIGED TO CONTEST SERIES OF PARTY ELECTIONS. ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE DAMPER TO KIND OF IMPERIAL, BULLYING LEADERSHIP OF SUCH PEOPLE AS KHAR, MUMTAZ BHUTTO, AND KHURSHID HASAN MEER AND IS DESIGNED TO MAKE TOP ORGANIZATION MORE SENSITIVE TO LOCAL NEEDS AND PROVIDE LOCAL IMPLEMENTING

INSTITUTION FOR PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL PARTY POLICIES.
AT APEX, CHAIRMAN (BHUTTO) WOULD CONTINUE TO CONTROL
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE, WHICH HE WOULD HAVE RIGHT TO HANDPICK
FROM AMONG ELECTED PARTY LEADERS.

4. RESTRICTION OF PARTY LEGISLATORS TO ONLY 30 PERCENT
SEATS IN PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL PARTY COUNCILS(THEY
ARE DEBARRED FROM LEADERSHIP ROLES AT LOWER LEVELS) IS
PROBABLY ATTEMPT BY PARTY'S "ORGANIZATION" FACTION
TO CLIP LEGISLATOR'S WINGS. HOWEVER AS PUNJAB VICE CHAIRMAN
NOTES, PRACTICE OFTEN CONTRARY TO THEORY AS PRESTIGE
AND POWER HAVE GRAVITATED TO THOSE IN GOVERNMENT WHO COULD
INFLUENCE PATRONAGE AND INFLICT PUNISHMENT. IT EQUALLY
TRUE THAT BHUTTO, AS HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, MUST PICK HIS OWN
CABINET AND WILL NOT BE BOUND BY PARTY HIERARCHY IN MAKING
HIS SELECTIONS - DESPITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING'S
CLAIM TO HAVE ESTABLISHED PARTY SUPREMACY OVER GOVERNMENT.
BYROADE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 09411 02 OF 02 021612Z

46

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 CU-05 COME-00 EB-24 LAB-06

SIL-01 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 /156 W

----- 101714

R 021025Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6983

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 9411

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJ: RULLING PARTY EMBARKS ON REORGANIZATION

5. IN THE AREA OF SUBSTANTIVE POLICY, OUR SOURCES INDICATE THAT BHUTTO REITERATED PPP SOCIALIST CREDENTIALS AND PROGRESSIVE DIRECTION, EVIDENTLY IN RESPONSE TO MANY COMPLAINTS THAT PARTY WAS LOSING ITS SOCIALIST ORIENTATION, ESPECIALLY SINCE OUSTER OF IDEOLOGUE J.A. RAHIM IN JULY.; PRIME MINISTER BY ALL ACCOUNTS IS EMBARRASSED BY INCOMPETENCE AND UNRELIABILITY OF MANY PPP LEGISLATORS, DEGREE OF CORRUPTION AND INFIGHTING AMONG MINISTERS AND PROVINCIAL PARTY LEADERS, AND IS WORRIED ABOUT LACK OF PARTY WORKERS BELOW PROVINCIAL LEVEL. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT LEGISLATORS AND PARTY BIGWIGS ARE RESISTING HIS CALL TO OPEN UP NEW MEMBERSHIP AND HOLD PARTY ELECTIONS BEGINNING AT LOCAL LEVEL. THEY ARE FEARFUL OF SHARING POWER WITH NEWCOMERS AND HAVING TO FACE ELECTION BY PARTY WORKERS, MANY OF WHOM THEY HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 09411 02 OF 02 021612Z

BULLED IN PAST.

6. PEOPLES' PARTY IS NOT YET AN ORGANIZATION AND NO LONGER A MOVEMENT. MUCH OF PPP POWER AS WELL AS BURDEN HAS RESTED WITH BHUTTO WHO HAS BEEN LARGELY PREOCCUPIED BY MATTERS OF STATE. THE PM'S POPULARITY HAS INCREASED AS RESULT GENERAL PUBLIC'S SATISFACTION WITH AHMADIYA DECISION (EMBTel 8610) BUT PARTY ITSELF APPEARS NOT TO HAVE SHARED THESE GAINS BECUASE OF CONTINUED FACTIONALISM ACCENTUATED BY LACK OF DISCIPLINE CHARACTERISTIC OF ALL PAK PARTIES. NEVERTHELESS, IT EVIDENT THAT THERE IS RUSH TO JOIN PPP AMONG SOME LEGISLATORS (MOST OF WHOM PREVIOUSLY GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS) AND OLD POLITICAL ACTIVISTS IN SIND AND PUNJAB WHO WISH TO SHARE GOVERNMENT FAVORS AND ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN PARTY BEFORE NEXT GENERAL ELECTIONS (INCREASINGLY RUMORED FOR EARLY 1975). SAME IS NOT TRUE OF NWFP WHERE PPP HAS BEEN LESS POPULAR AND LESS FIRMLY IN CONTROL OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT. BALUCHISTAN IS, OF COURSE, A SPECIAL CASE.

7. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES WHICH WILL IMPLEMENT REORGANIZATION PLAN HAS NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED,; NOR HAS THERE BEEN ANY WORD ON RELATED ISSUE OF MUCH RUMORED CABINET EXPANSION AND RESHUFFLE BHUTTO ANNOUNCED WHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN THIRD WEEK OF SEPTEMBER. BOTH MAY BE RESULT OF PM'S PREOCCUPATION ELSEWHERE. IT IS EQUALLY PROBABLE, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OF DECISIONS MADE ARE STILL UNPALATABLE TO POWER-HOLDERS IN IMPORTANT POSITIONS AND THAT PM CONTINUES TO SEARCH FOR OTHER REWARDS OF PWER, MONEY OR STATUS AS COMPENSATION FOR THOSE

WHO STAND TO LOSE IN NEW MORE REPRESENTATIVE, STRUCTURED
ORGANIZATIONAL PLAN.
BYROADE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, CORRUPTION, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY ORGANIZATION, POLITICAL FREEDOM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ISLAMA09411
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740278-0486
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741080/aaaacqmn.tel
Line Count: 226
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RULING PARTY EMBARKS ON REORGANIZATION SUMMARY: LEADERSHIP OF RULING PAKISTAN PEOPLES' PARTY
TAGS: PINT, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005